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REMARKS

Entry of this Preliminary Amendment and allowance of the above-identified application are respectfully requested. This application relates to biaryl substituted triazoles as sodium channel blockers.

This Preliminary Amendment accompanies a Request for Continued Examination (RCE). The RCE request is in compliance with 37 CFR 1.114 as it is being filed prior to the payment of the issue fee and accompanies a submission (this Amendment and IDS) and authorization to charge the required fees.

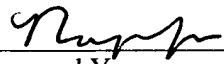
Claims 1 to 36 are pending in the application. This Preliminary Amendment cancels Claims 1 to 36 and adds new claims 37 to 65. Support for new Claims 37 to 65 is as follows:

Claim 37: Page 9, lines 6 to 9 and original Claim 3.
Claim 38: Page 9, lines 11 to 13.
Claim 39: Page 9, lines 15 to 18.
Claim 40: Page 10, lines 20 to 29.
Claim 41: Page 9, lines 20 to 23 and original Claim 4.
Claim 42: Page 9, lines 25 to 27.
Claim 43: Page 10, lines 1 to 4.
Claim 44: Page 10, lines 6 to 9 and original Claim 5.
Claim 45: Page 10, lines 11 to 13.
Claim 46: Page 10, lines 15 to 18.
Claim 47: Pages 33 to 66 and original Claim 6.
Claims 48 to 53: Page 15, lines 18 to 31, page 16, lines 18 to 24 and original
Claims 7, 8, 22 and 23.
Claims 54 to 65: Page 15, line 32 to page 16, line 17, Page 16 lines 25 to 27 and
original Claims 9 to 21 and 24 to 36.

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Any fees required in connection with this Preliminary Amendment or the accompanying Request for Continued Examination pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114 may be taken from Merck Deposit Account No. 13-2755. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number provided below if such would advance the prosecution of the case.

Respectfully submitted,

By 
Raynard Yuro
Reg. No. 45,570
Attorney for Applicants

MERCK & CO., Inc.
P.O. Box 2000
Rahway, New Jersey 07065-0907
(732) 594-0182

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